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STATE COINAGES

We are pleased to present in this issue a fascinating discussion by Everett T. Sipsey titled New Facts and Ideas on the State Coinages. This paper contains an interesting blend of numismatics, history, & genealogy and proposes that Daniel Van Voorhis rather than James F. Atlee was the maker of many of the dies used for the Vermont and New Jersey coppers.

Mr. Sipsey also discusses the history of Solitude, an extant residence in Morristown, New Jersey, used by Walter Mould during 1787 as a factory for New Jersey coppers. A number of coppers recovered from various locations in Solitude are described.

Many of the assumptions and conclusions which are presented in this paper may be considered controversial. If this proves to be the case, we hope that it will stimulate response from our readers, and that the facts and conclusions reached through these discussions will serve as benchmarks in the continuing efforts to resolve the mysteries associated with the State Coinages. Your comments, no matter how severe, will be appreciated by the author and by your editor.

RECEIVED FROM THE RESEARCH FORUM

Once again we request the cooperation of our readers in supplying the much needed data, letters, and articles for publication in CNL. Especially, we solicit your response to the Research Forum with the reminder, once more, that any contribution will receive our serious attention. Also needed are reports of new discoveries with photographs and descriptions. Suggestions for future topics will be greatly appreciated.

In our last issue we mentioned "subscriptions". It is a pleasure to report that the response has been good to date; however, additional contributions are needed if we are to improve the quality of CNL, in particular with regard to the inclusion of photograph plates. We have several papers on hand which are nicely illustrated; their publication is largely dependent on additional funds. As to quality in general, the present quality of CNL is considered by your editor to be the absolute minimum.

JCS



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● ● RESEARCH FORUM ● ●

Tabulated below are a number of new inquiries submitted to the Research Forum by our readers. Any information relative to these questions will be exceptionally helpful to those of us doing specific research in Colonial American Numismatics. In addition, please review the earlier inquiries (RF-1 through RF-12) as we still need additional inputs on the majority of them.

RF-13 Illustrated in the plates accompanying THE STATE COINAGE OF CONNECTICUT is a 1786 combination of obverse 5.3 apparently paired with reverse B.2 . Inasmuch as no such specimen has been located since the death of H. C. Miller, we would like to hear from anyone who knows of the existance of this particular piece, er - for that matter, any other example of a Connecticut 5.3 - B.2, because the authenticity of this die combination is presently in doubt.

RF-14 Relative to the article by Dr. Fuld in the June 1964 issue of The Colonial Newsletter --- Who owns a silver restrike Draped Bust cent with a plain edge, and ---

RF-15 Who has the gold restrike cents, two of which were struck? Do these gold restrikes have plain or cedor edges?

RF-16 Locations of five of the extant Fugio "New Haven Restrike" dies are well known. These are at ANS (one obverse, two reverse), Yale University (one obverse), and The Mattatuck Historical Society (one obverse). Does anyone know of the existance or location of any other dies of this group?

NEW FACTS AND IDEAS ON THE STATE COINAGES

--- A Blend of Numismatics, History, and Genealogy ---

It has been a maxim of numismatic tradition that the dies used for many of the coins of Vermont, New Jersey, and Connecticut, plus many counterfeit British halfpence, were made by James F. Atlee. Numismatic tradition has also contended that the early dies of the Vermont coinage -- those coins with the mountain range on the obverse and an eye with radiating glory on the reverse -- were made by William Coley, a goldsmith of New York City. The writer has recently come across some data in a book entitled The Story of Dorset by Z. Humphrey and published in 1924 by Tuttle & Company of Rutland, Vt. which lead to the conclusion that both of these numismatic traditions may be incorrect.

According to Humphrey's book, William Coley did not join forces with Reuben Harmon until after the Vermont coinage extension in 1786, and William Buell came with Connecticut "dies" after the coinage grant extension. The significance of these points is developed later in this discussion.

Harmon's mint, the first mint in the southwest section of Vermont, was situated on Hager Brook on the property of Grove Moore, recently from New Haven, the brother-in-law of William Buell. Grove Moore was born in Simsbury, Connecticut, in 1761 and went to Vermont with his father in 1780. He settled on Hagar Brook with his bride, Mary Buell, daughter of Judge Buell (?); later, he served as a judge in Bennington County. Buell Moore (probably the same person whom Crosby⁽¹⁾ refers to as Abel Buell Moore) was born in 1806 and was the youngest son of Grove Moore.

The Vermont coinage can be classified into three chronological and stylistic groups. The first group consists of those coins with a mountain range on the obverse, radiating bars on the reverse, and dated 1785 and 1786. The second group consists of coins of 1786 and 1787 with a head of George the Third facing left on the obverse, and a seated figure of Liberty on the reverse. The dies for this second group have been fairly definitely established as having been sunk using puncheons (except for the "Baby Head") made by Abel Buell who made most of the Connecticut and Fugio dies. The third group, those with the head of George the Third facing right on the obverse, and a seated Liberty on the reverse, is usually attributed to James F. Atlee. It is the writer's belief that the dies for this latter group were made by the silversmithing firm of Van Voorhis and Coley of 27 Hanover Square, New York City.

(1) See reference #3, p. 188

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In July of 1783 the books of the Reformed Dutch Church of New York City recorded the birth of daughter Elizabeth to William and Sybil Coley. In the same year Daniel Van Voorhis was operating a silversmith shop in Princeton, New Jersey, where the Continental Congress was then in session. Daniel Van Voorhis was born August 30, 1753 (died June 10, 1824). His workmanship, according to Carl M. Williams in his book Silversmiths of New Jersey, indicates very strongly that he apprenticed in New York City. He was probably an evacuee of New York City when the British occupied it. On December 4, 1782, he left Philadelphia and set up shop in Princeton.

In 1783 the Pennsylvania Line mutined in Philadelphia and sought out Robert and Gouverneur Morris, who fled to Princeton. The Continental Congress followed these two men who were, in fact, running the country, and thus was in Princeton from June 26th until November 4th of 1783.

During this time Van Voorhis operated his silversmith shop and catered to the members of Congress. He published an advertisement stating that he could accommodate three to six members of the Congress in his home. Later, Oliver Elsworth of Connecticut wrote a letter to Samuel Holten and asked to be remembered to Mr. and Mrs. Van Voorhis and daughter plus friends -- Congressmen Gerry, Ellery, and Hoel. On May 1st, 1784, Daniel Van Voorhis moved to Elizabeth, but it is not believed that he set up business there. The next record is of his formation of a business partnership with William Coley in New York City late in 1784⁽²⁾.

The following sequence of partnership changes is gleaned from various New York newspapers ⁽³⁾. In December of 1784, the silversmithing shop of Daniel Van Voorhis, Bayley and Coley opened at 27 Hanover Square. On April 27, 1785, an ad appeared relating to the firm of Van Voorhis, Bayley, Coley and Cox. On July 9, 1785, an advertisement states that Bayley is leaving Van Voorhis and Coley (Cox is not mentioned in this ad). In 1787 Van Voorhis is alone in business at 27 Hanover Square, New York City. From the June 1787 agreement made between the members of the Machin Mills group of which both Van Voorhis and Coley were partners, we find that Coley was living in Rupert, Vermont, as of that date.

Frank's directory of 1786, the earliest directory of New York City, lists the following residents:

Cox, Isaac, merchant, 194 Queens Street
 Cox, Albian, merchant, 240 Queens Street
 Mould, Walter, 23 Williams Street
 Van Voorhis and Coley, gold and silversmiths,
 27 Hanover Square

Under the category lawyers this directory shows James Giles Esq., 65 Maiden Lane. (Mr. Giles was also a partner in the Machin Mills enterprise). He is also listed as the officer for the Masons for the State of New York. Under the listing of membership in the General Society of Merchants and Tradesmen appear the names of Samuel Atlee and John Bailey.

(2) Reference #1, p. 117

(3) Reference #2

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In Frank's directory of the year 1787 we find listed:

Brasher, Abraham, gold & silversmith, 77 Queens Street

Bailey, John, cutler & brassfounder, 22 Queens Street

Giles, James Esq., 58 Maiden Lane

Van Voorhis, Daniel, gold & silversmith, 27 Hanover Square

Listed among the members of the Gold and Silversmith Society are the names of Ephraim Brasher and Cary Dunn.

From the foregoing tabulations it appears quite definite that William Coley did not leave New York City until late 1786 or early 1787.

The writer believes that the circumstances of the Vermont coinage were the following: The partnership in which Van Voorhis, Bayley, Coley, and Cox were associated lasted only a short while, and Cox and Simeon A. Bayley left the group. The writer has been unable to ascertain the first name of Cox, but believes there is a good chance that it was Albion. Van Voorhis and Coley could very well have been the gentlemen who made the dies for the 1786 New Jersey coinage undertaken at the Rahway mint by Albion Cox. In 1787, they went into partnership with Reuben Harmon to make the dies for the third series of Vermont coins. Coley moved to Rupert, Vermont; Van Voorhis stayed in New York -- thus they supplied dies during 1786 and the first part of 1787 to the New Jersey coiners, but did not supply any to this group in 1788; their workmanship is evident on the Vermont coins of late 1787 and all 1788, the counterfeits of Machin Mills, and some Connecticuts.

The same sort of history could, of course, be attributed to James F. Atlee except there is no record of Atlee being a silversmith. In addition, the agreement of the Machin Mills partners states that only James F. Atlee and Samuel Atlee had the implements for making coins and does not refer to either of them as silversmiths, whereas it does refer to Van Voorhis in those terms (4). Samuel Atlee was a brew master and evidently had a brewery along the East River in New York City (5). The writer has been unable to find any reference to James F. Atlee other than those in numismatic literature although certainly some must exist.

It is known that Daniel Van Voorhis applied to the New York Assembly for a franchise to coin coppers for that State on Feb. 16th, 1787 (6), and that an Excelsior coin was made (the Excelsior with no quartrefoils) using the same punches as on these New Jersey and Vermont coins. This could have been made for the franchise application; however, to counter this, it is also known that Thomas Machin applied to the Assembly for this franchise and it could be contended that he had James F. Atlee make the patterns to accompany his application (7).

At Rutgers University Library there is a silver piece made by Daniel Van Voorhis on which he placed his initials D.V. as his mark. These two letters on this piece are very similar to the letters on the Vermont coins (8). In the book The Southern Indian Trade by

(4) Reference #3, p. 193 and 196

(7) Reference #3, p. 290

(5) Reference #2, p. 249 - 250

(8) Reference #1, p. 118

(6) Reference #4, p. 536

Peter Alexander Brannon and published by Paragon Press of Montgomery, Alabama, 1935, there is shewn a silver arm band and a George Washington medal. These were both made by Van Voorhis and presented by the U. S. Government to Indian chiefs of the Alabama area during their visit to New York City in 1790. There is an eagle engraved on the arm band that is much larger but otherwise resembles the eagle on coppers (9) which were made by the same hand that we are considering. The wings of the eagle show very similar construction in the engraving.

The above discussions do not prove the issue one way or the other, but they certainly do raise a strong possibility that it was Daniel Van Voorhis (or William Coley) and not James F. Atlee who made the large number of New Jersey and Vermont dies. The preponderance of arguments are against James F. Atlee. Perhaps once more numismatic tradition will be found incorrect. However, further research is required; especially inspection of the touches on silverware by Van Voorhis. Time should bring forth additional facts which will clarify this argument.

In any case, the statements concerning William Buell in Z. Humphrey's book certainly add some new light to the history of the Vermont coinage.

In another book, The History of the Buell Family by Albert Welles and published by The Society Library in New York in 1881 it is stated that Abel Buell married Alletta DeVee on March 8, 1771, and that the children were William, born at New Haven about 1772, and a daughter born at New Haven in 1775. These dates would make William Buell, who was associated with Grove Moore in Vermont, quite young and Mary Buell would have to be the daughter and name-sake of Abel Buell's first wife, Mary Chittenden, whom he married in 1762. Mary was the sister of Ebenezer Chittenden, under whom Abel Buell apprenticed, and of Thomas Chittenden, who became the first governor of the State of Vermont (10). Using this as a basis we can construct the following interesting facts concerning the Vermont coinage:

Reuben Harmen obtained his first grant for the Vermont coinage in the year 1785. In 1786 he had this grant extended; his sureties for this extended grant were Lemuel and Nathaniel Chipman (11), powerful political figures in the State. It is doubtful whether Thomas Chittenden could have become governor without their support.

As mentioned earlier, the first mint was set up on the property of Grove Moore (who had married Mary Buell, half-sister of William). The dies for the coins during the years 1785, 1786, and the first part of 1787 were made by some unknown craftsman. Whoever he was, it may be that he acquired a few puncheons intended for the Nova Constellatio coinages of 1783 and 1785. In 1786 the state law changed the requirement for the devices on the coins to coincide with the Connecticut coppers, and William Buell appeared on the scene with punches made by his father, Abel Buell.

(9) The Nova Eborac eagle reverse that is muled with the IMMUNIS COLUMBIA - 1787. For plate see ref. # 10. p. 124

(10) Reference # 5, p. 4 and 88

(11) Reference # 3, p. 184

It is quite evident that in the early part of 1787 Reuben Harmon ceased operation of his mint on Grove Moore's property. It has been alleged that he did this because of the poor workmanship of the dies, but the situation could also have been that Grove Moore and William Buell had made arrangements to manufacture Fugio coppers and would receive dies from Abel Buell in New Haven. In fact, Crosby reports (but with doubts) that many Fugio coins were found on the site of this mint. In any event, in the Machin Mills agreement (of June 1787) it is definitely stated that Reuben Harmon is building a mint, not that he is moving one. From letters that are recorded in Crosby it is known that there were two mint sites. It seems possible then that if Fugios were made at Rupert, there were two Vermont mints in operation at the same time in 1787 -- one of them being operated by Grove Moore and William Buell in stamping out Fugio coppers, -- the other operated by Reuben Harmon and William Coley on Harmon's own property and stamping out Vermont coins with the head of George the Third facing right, the punches coming from their partner Daniel Van Voorhis. The die sinking may have been done by Coley, but more likely by Van Voorhis.

The writer believes that Albion Cox moved to Rahway in mid-1786 to undertake the New Jersey coinage. This coinage was granted after extensive in-fighting between Matthias Ogden and Daniel Marsh in the Assembly. After mutually beneficial arrangements were concluded (12) a bill was presented with the help of Johnathan Dayton and the device, according to this bill, required approval by one of the Supreme Court justices (13). It should be noted here that there were three Supreme Court justices at the time and one of them was John Cleve Symmes. (This gentleman had moved from Sussex County into Morristown at a residence known as Solitude on Sussex Avenue, in either December 1780 or early 1781) (14).

The New Jersey coinage franchise was granted to Walter Mould, Albion Cox, and Thomas Goadsby. Mould, along with Cox, entered into an agreement with Matthias Ogden and rented the mills of Daniel Marsh, but for some reason he did not continue with this plan. His backer, John Cleve Symmes, then made arrangements for Mould to use Solitude (the Symmes' residence) as a manufactory for coins, and Mould moved to Morristown in the spring of 1787.

The writer has observed that there are a number of large planchet coins of the New Jersey series on which the letter U is distinctly opened at the top and resembles somewhat a horse-shoe. These coins have, in the past, been deduced to have been made in the Morristown mint. At the Museum of the City of New York there is a piece of silverware bearing the mark of C. Dunn with the same type of letter U as on the large planchet dies (15), but much smaller in size. If Dunn

- (12) Reference # 6, p. 225
- (13) Reference # 3, p. 278
- (14) Reference # 7
- (15) Reference # 1

actually made these dies, the following facts would round out the story very nicely:

Cary Dunn was admitted a freeman to the City of New York in 1765. His silversmith shop was located at the corner of Crown Street, and when the British occupied New York City, he moved to Morristown, New Jersey, where he set up as the local silversmith. Around 1783 he moved to Newark from Morristown and soon went back to New York City. In 1786 he was located at the corner of Maiden Lane and William Street (not far from Mould) and was a member of the Gold and Silversmiths Society, as was indicated in Franks directory. In 1787 he worked with his son at Smith Street and Maiden Lane.

Mould and Symmes continued their operation at Solitude from the spring of 1787 till about July of 1788 (16). At that time Ogden tried to secure a writ to prevent Mould from leaving the state in order to avoid debtor's prison. Meanwhile, John Cleve Symmes had acquired rights to all the land between the two Miami Rivers in Ohio. He was supported in Congress in acquiring this land and was also defended in Congress when he prematurely announced the acquisition of this land by his partners, Elias Boudinot and Johnathan Dayton (17). It should be noted that Johnathan Dayton had been part of the groups settling the introduction of the bills into the New Jersey legislature to establish the coinage grant. Boudinot became the director of the United States Mint in 1795. (This Elias Boudinot was not a silversmith as has been erroneously reported -- it was his father of the same name who was a silversmith to Philadelphia and South Jersey families) (18).

Symmes and a group of New Jersey citizens set out to colonize the Ohio lands in July of 1788. On their way to Ohio, the Symmes group (which evidently included Walter Mould) stopped at Bedford, Pennsylvania, and it is recorded in a diary dated mid-August that they had left New Jersey three weeks previously. It is not known if Mould took his implements with him, but it appears that he did have some of them when he reached Ohio. Mould died from the rigors of the new territory early in 1789, and "his journeyman Russel" is reported to have stolen his implements (19). Albion Cox may also have been on this trip.

The site and parts of the original house known as Solitude are still intact in Morristown. The house was made into a tavern at least as early as 1797 by Benjamin Holloway and later -- about 1811 -- was sold to Holloway by Symmes (20). The transaction was conducted by a Captain Henry while Symmes was in Ohio. Captain Henry held Symmes' power-of-attorney and was the brother of Symmes' second wife.

(16) Reference # 6, p.226

(17) Reference # 8

(18) Reference # 1

(19) Reference # 8

(20) Reference # 7

However, neither Symmes nor Henry appear on the Morristown tax lists after 1789. The tavern became known as Wheat Sheaf Inn (21) and was on a very large property which, for the most part, is still intact; but subdivisions into one acre lots can be expected in the next generation.

The house was L-shaped as described on an Atlas of Morris County dated 1887, and the owner was a Mr. I. Reid.

About 1890 the property was acquired by a New York broker, Gustav Kissel, who built a very large frame mansion over the old foundations of Solitude. Mr. Kissel left this house to his daughter, the wife of the present owner, Mr. Edwin S. S. Sunderland.

There are indications that the original foundations were laid in 1737 from small stones and mortar and were approximately 28 x 28 feet. At some later date additional foundations, made from larger stones, were added to the west side for about eight feet and extended back on the south side forming an L-shaped house. This is how the house appears in a small black-and-white diagram in the 1887 atlas. It is possible that Helleway made this extension, or perhaps even Symmes.

When Mr. Kissel built his mansion over the site, it appears that the only parts retained were the old hand-hewn beams and columns in the original cellar, and the flooring which now serves as a sub-floor under the present floor. Whether the outside frame of the original house still stands and is merely covered over with the present clapboards is not known. The present mansion extends eight feet to the east of the old foundation, that is to say, the eastern eight feet have no excavation.

The extreme western end of the present mansion is a very large addition -- the first floor being one large ballroom known as Head Long Hall (22).

In Colonial times there was a small copper mine located on this property, and this may have stimulated Symmes' interest in the coinage.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Edwin S. S. Sunderland, the present owner of Solitude, the writer was privileged to examine in December of 1962 a group of seventeen New Jersey coppers. These seventeen coppers are mounted in a National album, and there are Maris notations around three of the slots, thus indicating that these three coins may have been purchased or presented to the owner. The coins have been mixed in the slots so that the notations around the slots no longer apply to the coins that are in the slots. Eight are large planchet coins and one slot is marked, in ink, -- "very rare, E PLURIBUS UNUM spelled PLURIBS - found in garden 1925". Even though no PLURIBS variety is new in the group, the notation indicates that one was found on the location. A few of these coins, but it is no longer possible to distinguish which ones, were plowed up in the garden or found behind the fireplace in Solitude. From these facts we have a confirmation

(21) Reference # 9

(22) Reference # 9

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of past deductions that the series -- Maris numbers 59-e thru 67-v -- were the coins made at Solitude in Morristown. It appears to the writer that any large planchet New Jersey coin having a diameter of about 29 or 30 millimeters can be attributed to Mould's cutting press.

Four miles southwest of Solitude is Leddel's Pond on the Passaic River. This is at the corner of Leddel Road and Temple Wick Road in Mendham, New Jersey. Beside the pond still stands the home of William Leddel, and the foundations of his sawmill and iron foundries are easily visible. The writer has no substantiating evidence but believes that this was the property of the William Leddel who, "being possess of a considerable quantity of copper and in possession of sundry Iron Factories", petitioned the New Jersey Legislature on May 25, 1786, for the coinage grant of that state (23). This William Leddel was sheriff of Morris County in 1783.

Only one reference has been located to Thomas Goadsby, the third member of the New Jersey coinage grant, other than those that are in Crosby (24) and Douglas (25). In the United States Census of 1791 there is a Thomas Goadsby and he was living in Hebron, New York. It should be noted that Hebron is hard up against the New York - Vermont line, and the center of Hebron is only three miles from the center of Rupert, Vermont, where the Vermont coinage was conducted.

There is an interesting aspect that appears in the Federal Census of 1791 covering the State of Connecticut. In this Census the following nine names appear in sequence which indicates that they lived close by each other in the same New Haven neighborhood:

Issac Beers, John Gedrich, Elias Shipman,
Mary Hubbard, Thaddeus Perit, Johnathan Ingersal,
Ebenezer Chittenden, Timothy Chittenden, Abel Buell.

Of these nine names, six were connected with the Connecticut coinage. On the original memorial for the coinage grant is the name of John Gedrich. When problems over the grant arose in Assembly and had to be compromised between the upper and lower houses, Mr. Ingersal represented the lower house. When the grant was approved, a committee to inspect the coinage was appointed; two of the five men on this committee were Ebenezer Chittenden and Issac Beers. After the grant, a Coinage Company was formed with half the shares held by a group consisting of John Gedrich, Elias Shipman, Johnathan Ingersal, and Abel Buell (26).

The development of the Connecticut coinage grant in the Assembly is strongly reminiscent of the interplay of interests that occurred in the New Jersey Assembly. It can be imagined that perhaps the same sort of thing went on during the renewal of the Vermont grant.

It is interesting to observe in Crosby's book how the control of the Connecticut coinage grant was slowly acquired by purchase of shares by James Jarvis. James Jarvis was a rather young man, and it can be presumed that he may have been acting as a "front" for his

(23) Reference # 3, p. 277

(24) Reference # 3

(25) Reference # 6

(26) Reference # 3, p. 222

father-in-law, Samuel Broome (27). It is well established that many of the Connecticut coins were made by the firm of Platt and Broome. Samuel Broome was married to Ebenezer Platt's sister, Phebe (28), and they lived side by side on Water Street, down by the harbor, in New Haven. Their coinage establishment was located near their homes.

By July of 1787 James Jarvis had acquired more than half the control of the Connecticut coinage grant and had also been the successful bidder for the coinage authorization by the United States Congress. He produced the Fugio coppers with this authorization and had Abel Buell make the dies. It is reported that Fugio coins from Abel Buell's dies were made at Rupert, Vermont, at Platt and Broome in New Haven, and at an unidentified mint in New York (30).

Abel Buell made most of the dies of the 1785 and 1786 Connecticut coppers, the vast majority of those of 1787, and about half of those of 1788. Prior to his connection with the Company for Coining Coppers, he had, in 1784, made a large engraving of a "Map of the United States". Many of the letters on this map strongly resemble the letters on his Connecticut coppers. On the cartouche of this map is a seated figure of Liberty reminiscent of the figure he used on the Connecticut coins and also a blazing sun like the one that appears on the Fugio coppers. (Copies of this map are available from the New Jersey Historical Society, 155 Broadway, Newark, New Jersey.)

On January 21, 1789 Abel Buell deeded his house on Chapel Street to James Jarvis and left for England (31). In many collections today there is a coin known as the Aucteri Plebis which is very similar to the coins of Connecticut. This coin has always been attributed as a token originating in Great Britain and the very strong possibility exists that Abel Buell made these coins during his stay in Great Britain. He returned to the United States in 1791 and set up a textile factory in Westville, Connecticut (32). Crosby refers to a second mint of Connecticut coppers being located in Westville and it may have been the same site as Buell's textile factory. It is possible that the source of this information may have been confused and that there was no mint, but only the textile mill, at Westville.

It is interesting to note that Pierrepont Edwards, one of the original shareholders in the Connecticut Company for Coining Coppers, was married to Francis, the daughter of Matthias Ogden -- the man who was so much involved in the activities of the New Jersey coinage. The possibility exists that Edwards, once being in the coinage of his own state, had interested Ogden in the same thing in his state.

There is a great deal of similarity in the coinage operations in the three states having private coinage grants. In all three cases the group undertaking the project consisted of (a) politicians, who had the contacts and the money to obtain the grant, (b) silversmiths to supply the dies, (c) steelworkers -- such as a machinist, cutler, or blacksmith -- to treat the die steel and erect and operate rolling, cutting, and stamping mills, and (d) merchants, who could dispose of the resultant product and work it into the general circulation of the economy. The Machin Mills operation was set-up along the same lines but with lawyers replacing the politicians.

(27) For this family relationship see reference # 11, entry of Jan. 1, 1789

(28) Reference # 12, p. 509 (29) Reference # 3, p. 210

(30) Ref. # 3, p. 302 (31) Ref. # 13 (32) Ref. # 14

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It is also evident that there were many family ties amongst the members of these operations. An interesting one which has not been mentioned is that Matthias Ogden's mother was a Hatfield, and Crosby relates how there was a man named Hatfield who made some of the New Jersey dies, which ones, if any, has not yet been determined.

Finally, many readers of The Colonial Newsletter will feel that some of this article is based on assumptions that are not too solid. However, much of the present mystery surrounding the State Coinages will be cleared up if these facts are substantiated. This article is presented with the hope that others who may have isolated facts relating to those presented here, will offer them. If the new facts agree with this article, we will have come a long way in the study of these coins; if they disprove this article, then it is discredited -- as well it should be if such is its quality.

Everett T. Sipsey

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